THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The developmental activities including industrial and construction projects in the Draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification issued on 15th September, 2005 inviting public comments and suggestions have been classified into Category A, Category A/B and Category B based on scale and severity of potential Environmental Impacts at the proposed location.

(c) The provisions for public hearing procedure in the Draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification has not been relaxed. However, the public consultation process has been structured with clear safeguards against delays.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Shrinking of forests

†3724. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the forest area is shrinking each year in the country alongwith the details of area deforested during last five years, State-wise;

(b) the area of land on which plantation has been made to extend forest cover during each year of last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to check the environmental imbalance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per forest cover assessment of the country made by the forest Survey of India (FSI), the forest cover of the country is not shrinking. FSI assesses the forest cover of the country once in two years and the results are published in 'State of Forest Report (SFR)'. As per the last three SFR's based on statelite data of 1998, 2000 and 2002 respectively, the forest cover of the country has shown an increase as given in Statement-I (See below)

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests in implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forest and adjoining areas in the country. The scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committies (JFMCs) at village level. The project area is treated as per the microplan formulation for the JFMC area. As on 31.03.2006, 715 FDA project have been approved in 28 States to cover a project area of 9.24 lakh hectare through 23,750 JFMCs. State-wise area covered during the last three year (2003-04 to 2005-06) is given in Statement-ll (See below)

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Environment & Forests is taking the following steps to check environmental imbalance:

(i) Implementation of Plan Scheme on Environmental Impact Assessment to assess the impact of various development projects on the environment and the enforcement of the related regulatory framework provided by the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), Notification, 1994.

(ii) The Ministry has adopted a policy for abatement of pollution, which provides multipronged strategies in the form of regulation, legislations, agreements, fiscal incentives and other measures to prevent and abate pollutions.

(iii) To give effect to various measures and policies for pollution contol, steps have been initiated which include stringent regulations, development of environment standards, control of vehicular pollution,and spatial environmental planning etc.

(iv) The ministry is the nodal agency for all multilateral environmental agreement and is coordinating international cooperation and sustainable development issues.

(v) For the purpose of conservation and protection of the coastal environment the Ministry has issued the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 under which all developmental activities within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) area are regulated.

(vi) Strict enforcement of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules and guidelines made thereunder.

(vii) Management measures like working of forest according to approved Working Plants, Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management activities.

(viii) Financial measures like providing assistance to the States/Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Externally Aided Projects.

(ix) To promote environment education through existing educational/ scientific research institutions.

Statement-I

Extent of Forest Cover during last five years

(Area in km^2)

State/UT	1999 Forest Cover	2001 Forest Cover	2003 Forest Cover
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	44,229	44,637	44,419
Arunachal Pradesh	68,847	68,045	68,019
Assam	23,688	27,714	27,826
Bihar	4,830	5,720	5,558
Chhattisgarh	21,644	22,637	55,998
Delhi	88	111	170
Goa	1,251	2,095	2,156
Gujarat	12,965	15,152	14,946

1	2	3	4
Haryana	964	1,754	1,517
Himachal Pradesh	13,082	14,360	14,353
Jammu & Kashmir	20,441	21,237	21,267
Jharkhand	32,467	36,991	22,716
Karnataka	10,323	15,560	36,449
Kerala	75,137	77,265	15,577
Madhya Pradesh	56,693	56,448	76,429
Maharashtra	46,672	47,482	46,865
Manipur	17,384	16,926	17,219
Meghalaya	15,633	15,584	16,839
Mizoram	18,338	17,494	18,430
Nagaland	14,164	13,345	13,609
Orissa	47,033	48,838	48,366
Punjab	1,412	2,432	1,580
Rajasthan	13,871	16,367	15,826
Skkim	3,118	3,193	3,262
Tamil Nadu	17,078	21,482	22,643
Tripura	5,745	7,065	8,093
Uttar Pradesh	10,756	13,746	14,118
Uttaranchal	23,260	23,938	24,465
West Bengal	8,362	10,693	12,343
Andaman & Nicobar	7,606	6,930	6,964
Chandigarh	7	9	15
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	202	219	225
Daman & Diu	0	6	8
Lakshadweep	0	27	23
Pondicherry	0	36	40
TOTAL	637,293	675,538	678,333

Statement-II

Extent of afforestation during last three years

(Area in Ha.)

State/UT	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Andhra Pradesh	13040	7780	3490
Chhattisgarh	19869	2800	2225
Gujarat	6600	4930	5000
Haryana	7250	1000	1050
Himachal Pradash	20434	7474	0
Jammu & Kashmir	15055	0	0
Karnataka	7150	6000	2650
Madhya Pradesh	5700	14700	3170
Maharashtra	31630	8605	3175
Orissa	6228	2313	6025
Punjab	3300	900	3385
Rajasthan	6800	2500	5090
Tamil Nadu	19563	7450	1340
Uttar Pradesh	19028	2000	1017
Uttaranchal	18186	10346	5665
Goa	1250	0	0
Jharkhand	25400	7500	1250
Bihar	7750	2400	2165
Kerala	5890	805	2955
West Bengal	9286	3900	200
Arunachal Pradesh	4600	0	1940
Assam	19665	4350	2940
Manipur	5600	600	500
Nagaland	2398	0	0
Skkim	1000	0	0
Tripura	0	2200	0
Mizoram	600	0	0
Meghalaya	0	7400	0
TOTAL	283272	107953	55232